



# Small Forest Landowner Office

## Newsletter

March, 2010

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## Welcome

For a change, here is a weather recap from the Climate Newsletter- "February temperatures were warmer than normal for the entire state, but, unlike January, the average temperatures were not record-breaking. Precipitation was below normal for a majority of the state, and a period of sunny and dry days (February 17-22 for most of the state) contributed to that. There was one particular rain event of interest during February. The Wenatchee ASOS recorded 1.24" of precipitation on February 26 - more rain in one day than expected for the entire month! This rain event ranks as the wettest February day since records began in 1959. It is also the 8th wettest day on record when considering all 12 months of the year (wettest was 1.51" on August 18, 1975). Other cities nearby broke daily precipitation records (i.e. Yakima, Ellensburg, etc.) on Feb 26"

This month's feature article is on Forest Health by Karen Ripley, WADNR, Forest Health Program Manager. If you know of individuals or group that would like to receive the newsletter please direct them to the [SFLO Overview](#) page and use the e-subscribe feature under related links. If you would like to have additional topics, your story, event, or update covered please feel free to email the SFLO at [SFLO@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:SFLO@dnr.wa.gov). You can also find us at the [SFLO Overview](#) page on our website.

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## SFLO and Stewardship Program updates

**Stewardship** Thanks largely to financial support from WSU Extension, combined with existing federal funds from the US Forest Service, we've been able to restore one full-time Stewardship Forester position to serve Western Washington. Continuation of the position will depend on future funding availability; however, we're delighted to once again have at least a limited level of Forest Stewardship Program presence in Western WA.

Former DNR South Puget Sound Region Stewardship Forester, Mike Nystrom, will be returning to Western WA to accept the new position starting in the near future. He'll be based out of the Small Forest Landowner Office here in Olympia and will work throughout Western Washington. Mike will be spending the next couple of weeks wrapping things up in his current job over in Colville, but can be reached via email at [mike.nystrom@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:mike.nystrom@dnr.wa.gov)

**FFFPP.** If you have a question, potential barrier on your property, or know of a landowner that may, please forward the information to Rick Kuykendall, [rick.kuykendall@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:rick.kuykendall@dnr.wa.gov), or call 360.902.1404.

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**Fixed width buffer template for small forest landowners** is now available as a tool. The Forest Practices Board approved an alternate plan template, simplifying the way small forest landowners set the riparian buffers required adjacent to fish bearing streams when harvesting timber in western Washington. “Simplifying the buffer zones around forest streams gives clarity and reduces expense for small forest landowners, but does not sacrifice important habitat and clean water protections,” said Commissioner of Public Lands Peter Goldmark, who chairs the Board.

The new info will be soon be on the SFLO page under alternate plans. To view the template go to [http://www.dnr.wa.gov/Publications/fp\\_form\\_fpan\\_altplan\\_fw\\_buffer.pdf](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/Publications/fp_form_fpan_altplan_fw_buffer.pdf)

**Riparian Open Space Program** the 2009 Legislature allocated additional funding to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for the Riparian Open Space Program. This program offers an option to owners of timbered lands within unconfined channel migration zones (CMZ). As part of the Riparian Open Space Program, willing landowners can apply to donate or sell a permanent conservation easement covering the trees, or land and trees, to the DNR.

To be eligible for this program the land located in the project must be identified in county assessor records as “designated forest land” under chapter 84.33 RCW or “current use forest land” under chapter 84.34 RCW. Also the land in the project must be free of unacceptable liabilities, such as presence of hazardous waste on the site. For those projects that have multiple interests in the property, all parties must agree to convey or subordinate their interest to the state to the extent necessary for the purchase.

The application form and instructions, along with additional general information about the Riparian Open Space Program may be found by following the link. [Click here.](#)

If you would like me to mail you an application and instructions, contact Dan Pomerenk in Olympia at (360) 902-1427 or [dan.pomerenk@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:dan.pomerenk@dnr.wa.gov).

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## Feature Article

### Taking a closer look at your Forest-Forest Health

Karen Ripley, WADNR, Forest Health Program Manager

Spring is a good time to take a closer look at your forest before the nettles grow up and the flies become bothersome. Here are some different scales to evaluate and contemplate:

**1500 ft level, Aerial survey maps:** View the annual aerial insect and disease survey at

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/nr/fid/as/quad09/index.shtml> (slow to download). Click on a quadrangle map and, after it downloads, zoom into the vicinity of your property. You can see spots where trained DNR and Forest Service observers noted newly killed or currently defoliated trees as they flew overhead last summer. Each spot is given a damage code and severity rating (High,



Red Ring Rot or White Speck. (USFS)

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Moderate or Low) or number of trees affected. Number of trees per acre may be denoted by “/A”. The codes for the damage agents are described in a legend at the bottom of each map. Unfortunately this survey method doesn’t reliably identify damage agents like root disease or dwarf mistletoe that don’t cause lots of trees to die all at once. You can find more information about the damage agents shown on the maps and relevant to you among the forest insect and disease pamphlets at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/nr/fid/wid.shtml>.

**Several acre level:** Did your property experience any blow down last winter? Consider the patterns of where and how those trees fell. Do trees fall there year after year, or do pulses of damage occur only with major storms? Did trees mostly fall in one direction? Are they concentrated at a saddle or edge that receives especially strong winds? Were they in a wet or stony place where the roots are shallow? Were the fallen trees jack-strawed in many directions indicating poor root stability? Make some notes to yourself now about the dates and conditions trees failed and consider whether you could improve resistance in the future with different species mixes or management actions. Suspect root disease in areas where trees fall frequently, even when without strong winds, and are arrayed in many directions.

**Single tree level:** Examine roots and breakage of trees that failed. Did the stem break at a pre-existing wound or defect? Prevent those in the future. Did the root mass lift and rotate, bringing a large plate of soil with it? Some tree species such as hemlock and spruce tend to have relatively shallow roots. The site may have a high water table or a soil condition that was a barrier to deep rooting. Can you nurture species that will overcome those conditions? Can you protect trees on that site by maintaining a density that the wind can’t penetrate? Are the roots mostly missing or broken off, revealing decayed or punky wood? Look closely for fungi or rot patterns that indicate a contagious root disease like laminated root rot, Armillaria root disease or Annosum root and butt rot. Use the Forest Service pamphlets and get some help to study up on these diseases. They may be stealing productivity or may be contributing a pocket of interesting diversity. Identifying the pathogen is the first step in understanding and monitoring its effects.

**Looking up:** Spring is also a good time to look up at the tree crowns in your forest. Note where you have hardwoods such as maple or cherry that are in bloom now. Look for ivy or holly or scotch broom and make a goal to reduce some of it in 2010. Spot conifers with forks or old breaks at similar heights. Question the cause of this damage. Will snow or ice storms track a similar pattern in the future?

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## Upcoming Events and Opportunities

**Idaho and NE Washington** will host a forest owner’s field day **June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010**. Whether you own a few acres or a large tract of land, this educational event is for you! You will learn how to plan and implement sound forest management practices. Join the more than 7,000 people who have already attended events across Idaho and Washington. Forests play a critical role in water quality and quantity. This year’s joint Idaho–Washington Forest Owners Field Day will have a special focus on practices that maintain or add to the health of the Spokane Valley–Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer. Tell a friend! If you think forests are vital to the quality of life in the Inland Northwest, please pass this information along to your neighbor!

More information is available at <http://ext.wsu.edu/forestry/> or by calling UI Extension at 208.446.1680.

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**Family Forest Succession Planning** will be the seminar topic on **April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010** in Ellensburg. [WSU cooperative extension](#) will be hosting the daylong seminar where you will receive information about legal and economic aspects of transferring forest lands from one generation to the next. This workshop is a mix of presentations and practical exercises to help families develop techniques needed to address tough issues.

Registration fees range from \$45-75 depending on the participants membership status. For more information contact Andy Perleberg, WSU extension forester at 509.667.6540 or [andyp@wsu.edu](mailto:andyp@wsu.edu).

**Ties to the Land** courses are offered by WSU extension. The class is now back on for **March 11<sup>th</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup>**. To register, or for updates visit <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/TTL2010.htm>.

**Forest Landowner National Conference** will be held in Stevenson, Washington **June 2-4**. The conference theme is **Shared Values, Shared Challenges: An Exploration of the Pacific Northwest**. While traditional educational sessions will provide you with direct access to top experts and service and product providers in forestry, on-the-ground exploration tours of various aspects of forestry in the Pacific Northwest will demonstrate what forest landowners across the country have in common.

For more information visit <https://www.forestlandowners.com/>.

**The 72<sup>nd</sup> annual Intermountain Logging Conference and Equipment Show** will take place **April 20, 2010** in Spokane, Washington. The Intermountain Logging Conference is proud to host its 72nd Annual Conference & Equipment Show at the Mirabeau Park Hotel & Convention Center in the Spokane Valley, Washington. The ILC will feature current issue presentations, training and accreditation sessions, panel discussions and guest speakers on topics current and essential to the logging industry. As well, the best in the industry will be there to showcase innovations in technology and equipment with over 60 indoor booths and 50 outdoor equipment booths.

For more information visit <http://www.intermountainlogging.org/>.

**Tree School West** as presented by OSU extension service will be **Saturday March 20, 2010** in Oregon City, Oregon. Tree School is celebrating 20 years of the popular event that will have 68 classes this year and more than 50 businesses and vendors sharing information on forest management. Classes start at 815 am and will continue till 515pm. Fees for the event are \$45 dollars for Clackamas County residence and \$55 dollars for all others.

For more information visit <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/clackamas/forestry/treeschool> or call 503-655-8631

**Tree School East** is coming to eastern Oregon on **Saturday, April 17, 2010** at the Baker High School campus in Baker City. This Extension Service mini-college will feature 27 classes on a wide variety of topics of interest to family forestland owners, professional foresters, loggers, arborists, teachers, and the general public. You'll find classes on such topics as vegetation management and reforestation, chainsaw use and safety, property conveyances and security interests, woodland ponds, new markets for forest products, Forest insect and disease management, growing aspen, basic forestry measurements, forestry cost share programs, riparian area management, sawmilling and drying your own lumber, and making essential oils from conifer needles. We'll also offer some

terrific door prizes, including the Grand Prize, a new chainsaw!

For a brochure and registration information contact the Baker County OSU Extension Office in Baker City (541-523-6418). Registration must be done in advance by Friday, April 2nd (sorry, no walk-ins allowed), so act now and reserve your spot for this fun and informative forestry program. The registration fee is just \$50 per person; \$20 per youth (18 & younger) when attending with an adult family member. Bring the family so you can take advantage of as many class offerings as possible! <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/baker/>

**Forestry Fun Day** on **May 15th** is a cooperative event between Grays Harbor Conservation District, Natural Resource Conservation Services, Department of Natural Resources, Grays Harbor College and WSU Extension. Although the fun day is open to all age groups, youth under 14 years of age will need to be accompanied by an adult. Come join us and have your forestry questions answered by local professionals. Find out what assistance programs might be available to you and about keeping your forest healthy.

Contact Theresa Marquardt at [Theresa.marquardt@conservewa.net](mailto:Theresa.marquardt@conservewa.net) or 360.249.5900 ext 106

**The Washington Ag-Forestry Leadership Program** is accepting applications for the upcoming leadership class. The Washington Agriculture and Forestry Education Foundation (AgForestry) is a leadership development program founded in 1978 for adults working within and connected to Washington State's agriculture, forestry, and fishing industries. Strong leadership is vital to having healthy farms, forests, near-shore environments, and rural communities.

The AgForestry Leadership Program develops the skills, knowledge and desire of messengers for the better understanding and advancement of natural resources and rural communities of Washington State.

AgForestry challenges each participant to make a difference by promoting the skills of understanding, knowledge and critical thinking. The program helps develop the leaders of tomorrow and encourage the process of mediation, collaboration and teamwork, which enables our graduates to come to workable solutions for difficult problems facing our state.

The Program is proud of its 800+ alumni. Graduates are in every corner of the State and in communities large and small. They run for public office, serve on boards, councils, commissions, and direct volunteer organizations. If there is a decision being made or a solution being found in Washington, the chances are great that there will be an AgForestry alumnus taking part or leading the way! Our network provides connections throughout Washington State. Use the following links, if you would like to:

- [Become a participant](#). Learn more about becoming an AgForestry participant and going through our Program.
- [Support our Program](#), [Become a member](#) of our network, or [make a donation](#) to support our cause.

For more information contact the AgForestry Foundation at 509-926-9113 or [leaders@agforestry.org](mailto:leaders@agforestry.org).

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## News



**Bark Beetles being rocked by sound** A phenomenon being dubbed Beetlemania is playing out in northern Arizona. As can be expected, it involves rock music. But instead of screaming fans, there are cheering scientists who have found a way to drive bark beetles crazy with sound. In a Northern Arizona University School of Forestry lab, researchers are listening to the sound of western forests under attack: the scratching, scraping, crunching of the Ips bark beetle and its cousins chewing the life out of ponderosa, pinyon and lodgepole pines. Armed with sonic bullets, they are firing back with Rush Limbaugh, Queen, Guns N' Roses and manipulated sounds of the bugs themselves. For more information click here [Arizona Daily Sun](#)

**The Washington Association of Conservation Districts Nursery** will have native plants on sale until the first week in May. For more information on what is available visit <http://www.wacd.org/> or contact Jacquie Gauthier at 360.757.1094 or [pmcsales@clearwire.net](mailto:pmcsales@clearwire.net).

**Washington Forest Practices Adaptive Management Annual Science Conference –** The [Cooperative Monitoring, Evaluation and Research Committee \(CMER\)](#) announce the seventh annual Forest Practices Adaptive Management Science Conference on Tuesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, in Olympia, Washington. CMER is responsible for conducting research and monitoring in support of adaptive management of the Forest Practices Rules, which governs forestry practices on private and state forestlands in Washington State.

The one day conference will highlight CMER studies including:

- Riparian Research and Monitoring on Fish- and Non Fish-Bearing Streams
- Amphibian Research and Monitoring
- Upland Research and Monitoring on Roads and Unstable Slopes

An agenda for the conference will be distributed in February 2010. There is no fee for the conference, however **reservations are required**. To register, please send an e-mail including your name, affiliation, and e-mail address to Dawn Hitchens at [dawn.hitchens@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:dawn.hitchens@dnr.wa.gov).

**Burning wood as renewable power draws scrutiny in Oregon and nationwide** By the end of this year, Seneca Sustainable Energy plans to fire up a power plant that will convert about 700 tons a day of logging leftovers and waste from its nearby sawmill into enough electricity to power 13,000 homes. Read more at [Small Wood News](#)

**All those trees mean serious carbon storage Study: Olympic among region's national forests atop U.S. ranking** The top 10 national forests for storing greenhouse gases in the United States are in the Pacific Northwest and southeast Alaska, according to an analysis released Thursday by the Wilderness Society. To read more visit [The Olympian](#).

**Aftermath of huge Peninsula quake would inundate communities -- a town-by-town analysis** The near-record magnitude 8.8 earthquake that rocked Chile on Feb. 27 resonated here on the North Olympic Peninsula with tsunami advisories that resulted in mere inches of a splash. But experts say the mega

thrust-temblor arising from the Cascadia Subduction Zone off the Washington state coast would be even greater, at 9.1. They also say the huge quake -- the U.S. Geological Survey reports only four worldwide at 9.0 magnitude or greater since 1900 -- would create a giant wave that would race across the Pacific, aiming right for our coast. The last such quake was in 1700. Experts say there's no doubt that another will happen; they just don't know when. Read more at [The Peninsula Daily News](#).

**WFPA, Cascade Land Conservancy and NW Indian Fisheries Commission** produced a working together video. Leaders from the various communities have a dialogue about the pressure on our private forest land base from increasing population and the importance of working together to maintain working forests on our landscape. To watch the video visit <http://workingforestalliance.org/index.html>

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## Links

Washington Farm Forestry

<http://www.wafarmforestry.com/>

Washington State University Cooperative Extension

<http://ext.wsu.edu/forestry/index.htm>

Northwest Natural Resources Group

<http://www.nnrg.org>

Family Forest Foundation

<http://www.familyforestfoundation.org/>

Smallwood Utilization Network

<http://www.smallwoodnews.com/>

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The Small Forest Landowner Office (SFLO) serves as a resource and focal point for small forest landowner concerns and policies. With a mission to promote the economic and ecological viability of small forest landowners, the office seeks to develop policies that conserve Washington's privately owned non-industrial forests. Recognizing the significant contributions small landowners make to protecting Washington's public natural resources, the office strives to equip landowners with all the necessary tools and information they need to keep their land in forestry use.

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